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SS Hope Benefit
'Sails' in May

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Contributing Writer.

The "Passport to Hope" Ball which will be held on May 11th is stamped with the imprint of youth, a not uncommon mark in Washington these days.

This is the youngest committee on record to have formed—in a wholly spontaneous effort—to organize a charity ball. SS HOPE, the floating medical center which is a new, young concept in a teaching-training program to assist developing nations, will be the beneficiary.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL and Mrs. Robert Kennedy are honorary chairmen of the committee. Also serving in an honorary capacity as committee members are the Ambassadors of Peru and Viet Nam and their wives and the Ambassador of Indonesia. The foreign ambassadors represent the countries visited by the SS HOPE on her maiden voyage and Peru her current mission, on which she sails the day of the ball.

The energetic committee members (all in their twenties) who undertook the money-raising project are headed by William Lars Hudson. The group includes a cross-section of interests and jobs that is pure Washington in character—Government employee, an art student, an attorney, an intern, a member of the CIA, a sailor, and representatives from the staffs of the Belgian and Cambodian embassies.

THIS MAY SET A NEW TREND in charity balls which have in the past carried high price tags that limit the guest lists to those who can afford them. (The International Ball may be enjoyed by invitation holders at \$10 a couple.) The minimum donation for the HOPE party is set at \$10, and the ball will be held on a Wilson vessel that will be christened the SS HOPE for the night. Searchlights will flood the dock as guests arrive and they will be played by a Scots Bagpipe. The orchestras will provide the music. Howard Lanin, the 23-year-old dancer from Madrid, will perform on a performance with

May 8th in Georgetown's Trinity Theater.

Young Washington will dance that night for HOPE and charity and for fun, too.

THERE'S NO QUESTION about what is causing the biggest furor of the week if you hear the conversation and regard the lifted eyebrows at current cocktail and dinner parties. The huge apartment buildings proposed for the McLean banks of the Potomac.

From the Washington side, the reaction stems from what is regarded as the proposed destruction of one of the most appealing views to be seen from the city—the lovely high banks that rise from the rocks along the river. From the McLean angle, the idea spells death to the quiet charm of a distinguished residential area.

Conversation centered on the subject at a dinner Saturday night at the home of CIA's Deputy Director for Scientific Research Herbert Scoville, Jr. and his wife. Dr. and Mrs. Jerome Weiner and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rayson (he is the Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security) were among the guests who discussed the problem.

Casual attention may not make clear enough the extent of the plan. As one of the guests pointed out, the buildings will be nearly as high as the Washington Monument and seven stories taller than the Arlington apartment buildings. Pop them on the hills of Merrywood, and they'll dwarf everything in and around Washington.

At another dinner recently, someone asked Hugh D. Auchincloss who sold the land where the buildings will stand, whether he's seen the plans for the apartments and learned that he considered them anything but beautiful.

Guests at a cocktail party given by Mr. and Mrs. Wistar Jarrett were discussing with interest and perplexity the sudden switch of Supervisor A. C. Harborne Leigh. Mr. Leigh, who had been on a platform and was speaking of the erection of high-rise apartments, suddenly

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